

disillusioned, and pleading with us to bring our troops home. They want us to do that so there will be no more deaths like Staff Sergeant Mark Wells, the young man from Congressman POE's district.

HONORING DALE EVERETT CRANE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUAYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who lived a life that epitomized the American Dream—a man who put his family and country first, yet never asked for anything in return. We here in Washington talk a lot about the American Dream. Unfortunately, we often talk about this dream in abstract terms. Yet, every day there are people all across this great country who are living this dream without any recognition.

And for many of them, that's exactly how they like it. They don't want accolades or praise. They simply want to live a happy life and be surrounded by the people they love. They believe that building a strong family and serving their country is nothing special. They believe it's ordinary. Madam Speaker, that mindset and that belief is what makes these people extraordinary, and that is what made Dale Everett Crane extraordinary.

Dale Crane came from humble beginnings in southern California. After he graduated from high school, Dale briefly attended college until he found another calling. Instead of furthering his education, Dale joined the marines and went on to fight for our country in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged from his beloved corps, he met the love of his life, Shawn, and married her. Dale went on to be a successful small businessman. He scraped and he saved; but in the end, he built up one of those small businesses that make our country strong.

Although Dale built a tremendous small business, this was not his greatest accomplishment. In Dale's mind, his greatest accomplishment was his family. His marriage to Shawn and his four children were far and away the most important thing in his life. I don't know this because I read a story about Dale in a newspaper. I know this because I felt it firsthand. Dale Crane was my father-in-law. The love he knew for his family knew no bounds—and if we all embraced this love of family and country, we would be in a better place.

Madam Speaker, on February 19 of this year, Dale Crane's family and friends mourned his death. But more importantly, we celebrated his life. We will never forget the sacrifices he made for his family and his country.

□ 1030

REPUBLICANS RESCHEDULE DEBATE ON HOME AFFORDABLE MODIFICATION PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I am here to report that the Republican follies continue today.

Today, we were scheduled to debate the Republicans' proposal to terminate the President's foreclosure prevention program called HAMP. But late last night, the Republican leadership decided to postpone debate until after returning from the recess.

As the country faces a number of problems, including a serious housing crisis, the House Republican leadership decided that today wasn't the best time to terminate a program that has helped more than half a million homeowners stay in their homes.

See, tomorrow, the House will close up shop until March 28, and Republicans recognize that killing a foreclosure prevention program today would be bad politics. It would force Republican Members to go home and defend this feckless move for 10 straight days—to defend ending a foreclosure prevention program face to face with the people they represent, many of whom are struggling right now to keep their mortgage and keep their home. But, after the 10-day recess, when House Republicans come back out of the sight of their constituents, they'll move forward with their plans to end the home loan modification program.

This kind of leadership is disgraceful. American homeowners are struggling. Nearly 7 million homeowners are facing foreclosure in this country. One in every four houses are owned by people who owe more than the house is worth. Nearly half a million homeowners have been able to stay in their homes because of the Affordable Modification Program, or HAMP. Ending that program will undoubtedly kick families out of their homes. That's something the Republicans realized they didn't want to do before a 10-day recess.

I'll be the first to admit the Affordable Modification Program is not perfect. So let's fix it or replace it with something better. However, I have yet to see a legitimate alternative from House Republicans. They just want to cut, cut, cut, cut. Cutting deficits is important, but the Republicans' policies and scheduling gimmicks indicate that they don't really care about the American people.

Every Republican Member should watch the "60 Minutes" special, entitled, "Hard Times Generation." It aired two Sundays ago, on March 6. The special focused on families that were homeowners and part of the middle class before the 2007 recession started. Now hundreds of thousands of those American people are homeless and hun-

gry for the first time in their lives. The children of one former home-owning family described what it was like to live in their parents' van. Before school, they'd go to a Walmart bathroom to brush their teeth, wash their faces, and get cleaned up to go to school. The kids and their parents are now living in a motel room, the whole family of six, which is, quote, "better than the van," although it's small.

Is this the America that Republicans want our children to grow up in? Are Republicans really comfortable killing a program that has prevented 500,000 people from moving out of their house and living in their car? Clearly, my Republican colleagues need a wake-up call today, and I am here to help. Watch that "60 Minutes" special.

I've made it easier for you to watch the "60 Minutes" segment. All you have to do is go to my Web site, mcdermott.house.gov, then click on the very first slide in the slideshow that says, "60 Minutes Special: Poverty." If you see that, click on it and you can watch what's going on.

And when my colleagues, Madam Speaker, are back in their districts over the 10-day recess after they've watched this, then they should meet with some of these people and see what their thoughts are about ending the program and doing nothing to help American families. If they still believe that they should simply do away with the modification program, my belief is they have forgotten why they were elected and who they represent.

The housing program that we will debate after the 10-day recess has saved the homes of over half a million people, or 500,000 families. It's far from perfect, but we need to focus on improving it or replacing it with something better, not just killing it.

How many more kids have to take their morning bath in the Walmart bathroom or the Exxon gasoline bathroom before we begin to help the homeowners who were caught in the debacle from Wall Street from which not one person has gone to prison or served one single day?

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Come and help us, Lord our God. Those wounded returning from war are not afraid to submit themselves to physicians. In this humility, they live patience and offer You alone the glory. By their being faithful to the course outlined for them, they learn that it takes many small steps to make full recovery.

In the same light, O Lord, grant this Nation patience. Give this representative government wise discernment and courageous action to excise whatever poisons the whole system while preserving each healthy member.

As we pray today, we ask You, Divine Physician, to bless, sustain and reward the Navy medical team that cares for Members, staff and guests here on Capitol Hill. With them, may we give full measure as we serve in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan officially declared March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. He called upon our Nation to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with developmental disabilities lead productive and fulfilling lives. There are currently over 7 million Americans who experience developmental disabilities. Disabilities have no boundaries. They cut across the lines of racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds and can occur in any family.

As an individual with significant hearing disability and a grandfather of a child with special needs, I am very familiar with the hardships of over-

coming the obstacles of disabilities. My grandson, Maxwell, has CHARGE syndrome and deals with intensive developmental and medical challenges every day of his life. He is a true inspiration to our family and our community.

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, I encourage us all to learn more about the people in our community who have developmental disabilities and to recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer to make this a better Nation.

REPUBLICANS PUSH SPENDING CUTS THAT DESTROY JOBS

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the majority's spending plan that would cost jobs and threaten our economic recovery. Republicans have held the majority for 11 weeks now, and we have yet to see a jobs plan. Instead of focusing on jobs, which is the number one priority of Americans, the majority is pushing spending cuts that destroy thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the majority is ignoring the warnings from economists that the sharp cuts they propose would guarantee major job losses in the public and private sectors. The Economic Policy Institute shows that the majority's plan would destroy more than 800,000 jobs. Mark Zandi, JOHN MCCAIN's former economic adviser, puts the job loss figure at 700,000. No matter who is right, the number is far too high.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't particularly like public employees, but we do need to ask just who are these public employees. Just one example is the staff at the tsunami warning center. Under the majority's plan, the National Weather Service, the agency that houses the tsunami center that issued alerts after Friday's earthquake—and there was significant damage in California after the tsunami—would be cut by \$126 million. These cuts would result in furloughs and office closures affecting the center's ability to issue future warnings.

The type of cuts proposed by the majority does not create jobs; it destroys them. I urge the majority to work with us on a responsible spending plan that drives economic growth and job creation.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, where do we get the gasoline to power our cars and jet fuel to power our airplanes? We all know that it comes from oil and that its price is dictated by supply and demand.

President Obama realizes this. In fact, his advisers have considered opening up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to stabilize supply. But if we are willing to open up this emergency supply, then why are we not taking advantage of the natural reserves that we have throughout our Nation?

Following BP's careless accident in the gulf, six deepwater drilling rigs left for foreign shores, some even moving to Egypt. Deepwater drilling will continue, but off foreign shores. America will continue to need oil, but it will increasingly come from foreign nations. Rather than reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels, the actions of this administration are increasing them.

With instability in the Middle East, our gas prices naturally rise. Let's open our natural reserves off our shores and throughout our country. Let's create energy jobs here and stabilize the price of gasoline in the United States.

COMMEMORATING ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the rich history of the Italian American community in the United States as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph—La Festa Di San Giuseppe—on March 19. St. Joseph was credited with preventing a famine in Sicily in the Middle Ages, and the Feast of St. Joseph is celebrated widely among Italian Americans—including my family and many others across my home State of Rhode Island—and is an opportunity to recall the many contributions of Italian Americans to our country and to honor the patron saint of the family.

Here in the United States, we recognize the powerful impact of the Italian American experience, which began five centuries ago with the explorations of Vespucci and Verrazano. Italian Americans represent some of this country's, and indeed the world's, foremost innovators—in health and science, business and industry, politics and government, arts and culture.

In celebrating the many milestones of the Italian American heritage on this Feast of St. Joseph, we honor the lives, work, and rich history of Italian Americans throughout our Nation.

Buona Festa Di San Giuseppe, Happy St. Joseph's Day, to everyone.

HONORING WES LEONARD AND THE FENNVILLE BLACKHAWKS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man named Wes Leonard in Michigan,